

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 02269 100321Z

64

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 AGR-05 SWF-01 DPW-01

IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /094 W

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R 100314Z DEC 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2955

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2269

CINCPAC FOR POLAD PASS TO AMBASSADOR BUSH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ECON VN VS

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON NORTH VIETNAM BY DANISH AMBASSADOR TO
PEKING

1. DANISH AMBASSADOR TO PEKING J. A. W. PALUDAN
RETURNED FROM HANOI LAST WEEK (HE IS ACCREDITED TO
NORTH VIETNAM) AND MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO
USLO OFFICER ABOUT CONDITIONS IN NVN.

2. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN NVN IS INADEQUATE TO
MEET THE NEEDS OF THE POPULATION, WHICH HAS NOW
REACHED 24 MILLION, WHILE TOTAL AGRICULTURAL YIELD
IS AT SAME LEVEL AS FOR 1965. PALUDAN WAS GIVEN
TWO PREVIOUS POPULATION FIGURES OF 13 MILLION IN 1954
AT TIME OF GENEVA AGREEMENTS AND 16 MILLION IN 1962,
AND WAS TOLD THAT THERE HAD BEEN A VERY LARGE
EXPANSION DURING THE WAR YEARS. IN ORDER TO BETTER
MEET FOOD NEEDS, NVN IS IN PROCESS OF "RATIONALIZING"
AGRICULTURE, WHICH IN PALUDAN'S OPINION WOULD BE A
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PAGE 02 PEKING 02269 100321Z

VERY DIFFICULT PROCESS GIVEN THE TEMPERAMENT OF THE

VIETNAMESE FARMER. HE NOTED THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE THEMSELVES WERE AWARE OF DIFFICULTIES BEFORE THEM, SINCE THEY CITED TO HIM THE FAILURE OF THEIR INITIAL ATTEMPTS AT COLLECTIVIZATION UNDER TRUONG CHING.

3. PALUDAN HAD MEETING WITH PHAM VAN DONG, AND DESCRIBED DONG AS BEING VERY CONFIDENT ABOUT WAY THAT EVENTS WERE PROGRESSING IN THE SOUTH FROM NVN'S STANDPOINT. DONG SAID THAT AT THE TIME OF THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, "THE SOUTHERNERS" (I.E., THE VIET CONG) HAD BEEN OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE CHANCES OF A TRIPARTITE COALITION GOVERNMENT BEING ESTABLISHED IN SVN, AND THAT THE NORTHERNERS HAD WARNED THEM ABOUT THIS. UPSHOT WAS THAT SVN GOVERNMENT HAD MANAGED TO SEIZE QUITE A BIT OF TERRITORY, WHICH WAS NOW BEING TAKEN BACK. PHAM VAN DONG AND OTHER NVN LEADERS WERE HOPEFUL THAT A COALITION GOVERNMENT IN SVN COULD BE REALIZED BEFORE TOO LONG. THEY TOLD PALUDAN THEY WERE PREPARED TO WAIT UNTIL CONDITIONS WERE RIGHT FOR UNIFICATION BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH AND WOULD NOT PRESS FOR THIS AS AN IMMEDIATE GOAL.

4. WHEN TOLD OF CAPTURED VC DOCUMENTS SPEAKING OF GREATLY STEPPED-UP LEVEL OF COMMUNIST MILITARY OPERATIONS IN SVN THIS DRY SEASON, PALUDAN DISCOUNTED A MAJOR OFFENSIVE ON GROUNDS THAT FROM NVN STANDPOINT POLITICAL SITUATION IN SVN HAS NOT REACHED AN EXPLOITABLE STAGE. PALUDAN THOUGHT THAT CRITICAL PERIOD WOULD BE DRY SEASON OF 1975-76.
HOLDRIDGE

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